

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5521

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 15862

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GW, GE

SUBJECT: EVENTS IN BONN FOR GDR OCT. 7 CELEBRATION

1. OCTOBER 7 NOON RECEPTION IN BONN (ATTENDED BY SOME 800) ON OCCASION GDR ANNIVERSARY TOOK ON APPEARANCE MORE OF GATHERING OF THE PARTY FAITHFUL THAN OF DIPLO-MATIC EVENT. A CHECK OF LICENSE PLATES IN PARKING LOT INDICATED THAT THE INVITED HAD COME FROM THROUGHOUT THE FRG, AND MANY GUESTS WORE HONORS AWARDED BY GDR. ONE SUCH GUEST WAS MAX REIMANN, CO-FOUNDER IN 1956 OF THE BANNED COMMUNIST PARTY OF GERMANY AND NOW HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF THE GERMAN COMMUNIST PARTY. ON OTHER HAND, AMBASSADORS AND DIPLOMATS FROM EAST, WEST AND THIRD WORLD WERE ON HAND, THOUGH MOST WESTERN AMBASSADORS MADE IT A POINT TO AVOID BEING PHOTOGRAPHED BY BEVY OF MOTION-PICTURE AND TV CAMERAMEN. EVENING CONCERT IN THE BEETHOVEN HALL BY DRESDEN PHILHARMONIC WAS WELL-ATTENDED (CONCERT WAS COMMERCIAL AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIONAL) BUT NO RANKING FRG PERSONALITIES WERE ON HAND. PERFOR-MANCE ITSELF WAS COMPETENT BUT UNINSPIRED, AND OC-CASIONED NO ROUSING OVATIONS.

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2. FRG SENIOR REPS AT RECEPTION WERE INNER-GERMAN

AFFAIRS MINISTER FRANKE AND AID MINISTER BAHR. CHANCELLOR HEAD SCHUELER ALSO ATTENDED VERY BRIEFLY, EXCUSING HIMSELF BECAUSE OF AN URGENT APPOINTMENT. USUALLY WELL-INFORMED FRG FONOFF SOURCE HAS PROVIDED US WITH AN INTERESTING ITEM REGARDING FRG ATTENDANCE. FRANKE HAD RECEIVED AN INVITATION TO RECEPTION IN NORMAL COURSE, BUT GDR PERM REP KOHL LATER HINTED TO SENIOR CHANCELLERY AIDE SANNE THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF FRANKE DID NOT ATTEND. REACTING TO THIS, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT PERSONALLY DECIDED THAT FRANK WOULD GO, AND WOULD BE DESIGNATED (WITH BAHR) AS REPRESENTING FRG.

3. THE OPPOSITION STAYED AWAY SAYING THE CDU/CSU WAS THUS PROTESTING THE WALL. OPPOSITION SPOKESMEN CONDEMNED GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN OCT. 7 EVENTS, BUNDESTAG CDU/CSU WHIP REDDEMANN CALLING SUCH PARTICIPATION THE EQUIVALENT OF CONGRATULATING THE GDR FOR 25 YEARS OF DICTATORSHIP OVER 17 MILLION GERMANS, AND A SLAP IN THE FACE FOR THE MILLIONS WHO RESIST THE ABSENCE OF FREEDOM IN THE GDR.

4. COMMENT: IF GDR AIM IN BONN IS TO BE ACCEPTED AS JUST ANOTHER "DIPLOMATIC" MISSION, THEIR OCT. 7 RECEPTION PROBABLY WAS A CONTRIBUTION: IT WAS NOT DISCERNIBLE FROM MOST OF THE OTHER NATIONAL DAY DIPLOMATIC EVENTS IN BONN. YET THERE WAS ONE DISTINGUISHING ASPECT: THE HORDE OF PARTY-LINERS WASTED NO TIME IN DESCENDING ON THE BUFFET, VIRTUALLY STRIPPING IT BARE BEFORE MANY OF THE DIPLOMATIC GUESTS HAD EVEN ARRIVED.
HILLENBRAND

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